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- 1. A dispersion management system for soliton or soliton-like transmission systems in which fibres of opposite sign dispersions are concatenated together characterised in that the duration of a dispersion compensation phase is short in comparison with the propagation interval in the remainder of the system and that the path average dispersion is anomalous.
- 2. A dispersion management system for soliton or soliton-like transmission systems according to claim 1 characterised in that the system excludes arrangements in which the dispersion map of one fibre (N) is substantially closed to zero than that of its complementary fibre (A).
- 3. A dispersion management system for solution or solution-like transmission systems according to claim 2 characterised in that the difference between fibre dispersions is less than 12.0ps<sup>2</sup>/km.
- 4. A dispersion management system for soliton or soliton-like transmission systems according to claim 2 characterised in that the difference between fibre dispersions is less than 4.0ps<sup>2</sup>/km.
  - 5. A dispersion management system for soliton or soliton-like transmission systems according to claim 2 characterised in that the difference between fibre dispersions is less than 0.1ps²/km.
- 6. A dispersion management system for soliton or soliton-like transmission systems according to claim 1 characterised in that compensation is provided by discrete dispersion compensator means.

